

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HONG K 08234 280941Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 HA-02 INR-05 PM-03
DODE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 /039 W
-----063048 300248Z /70

R 280831Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152
INFO CINCPAC
DIA WASHDC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T HONG KONG 8234

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: GOSPEL ACCORDING TO FEI I-MIN

1. SUMMARY: TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN IN A RECENT MEETING TRIED TO IMPRESS ON CONGENOFFS THAT CHINA IS RUN BY A STABLE, COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WITH VICECHAIRMAN TENG HSIAO-PING SERVING AS THE "MAIN PILLAR", FEI, WHO MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO HID HIS PRO-TENG SYMPATHIES, SKETCHED A PICTURE OF A GROUP OF EXPERIENCED REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS (TENG YEH CHINEN-YING AND LI HSIEN-NINE) WHICH IS OVERSEEING CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG'S APPRENTICESHIP. MOST IMPORTANT, ACCORDING TO FEI, IS A GROUP OF "TEMPERED" POLITIBURO SECOND-ECHELON CADRE WHICH WILL ASSIST HUA TO RULE. FEI SAID THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM, TENG LAST YEAR REFUSED THE PREMIERSHIP WITH THE JOKE THAT HE COULD NOT BE SURE WHEN "MARX
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 HONG K 08234 280941Z

WOULD CALL HIM HOME". END SUMMARY.

2. IN A JUNE 26 MEETING, FEI TOLD CONGENOFFS THAT CHINA IS RULED BY A COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WHICH SHARES THE DUTIES ONCE HELD BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. WITHIN THIS GROUP, PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN TENG HSIAO-PING'S IS THE "MAIN PILLAR". AS AN EXMAPLE OF THE "EQUALITY" OF THE FIVE MEMBERS

OF THE POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE, FEI NOTED THAT ALL FIVE SHARE THE TASK OF MEETING WITH FOREIGN VISITORS AND OF TRAVELING ABROAD. HE CONCEDED THAT VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING CANNOT TRAVEL ABROAD GIVEN HIS AGE; AND IN A RATHER PATENT DISPLAY OF DISDAIN, FEI FEIGNED DIFFICULTY REMEMBERING THE NAME OF THE "FIFTH MEMBER" OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, VICE CHAIRMAN WANG TUNG-HSING. HE ADMITTED THAT WANG MEETS FEWER FOREIGN GUESTS THAN THE OTHERS, AND SHRUGGED WHEN ASKED WHY WANG HAS YET TO TRAVEL ABROAD.

3. FEI TOLD CONGENOFFS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION BELOW THE POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE. HE SAID THERE IS A GROUP OF SENIOR POLITBURO MEMBERS AGED ROUGHLY 55 TO 65, WHO HAD BEEN "TEMPERED" IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE GANG OF FOUR AND BY THEIR LONG HISTORY IN THE PARTY, AND NOW ARE IN CHARGE OF VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. AMONG THESE, FEI SINGLED OUT FOR ATTENTION KENG PIAO, YU CH'IU-LI, FANG YI AND CH'EN MU-HUA (POLITBURO ALTERNATE MEMBER). FEI CLAIMED THAT THIS SECOND ECHELON OF THE LEADERSHIP, ALONG WITH VICE CHAIRMEN LI HSIEN-NIEN, WAS MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVER-THROW OF THE GANG.

4. FEI CAME AROUND SLOWLY TO A DISCUSSION OF CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG'S ROLE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HUA, IN CONTRAST TO THE SECOND LEVEL, LEADERSHIP, HAD RISEN UP
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 HONG K 08234 280941Z

FROM THE RANKS, HE HAD STATED AS A COUNTRY PARTY SECRETARY, THEN A PROVINCIAL SECRETARY AND FINALLY HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO PEKING AS A JUNIOR POLITBURO MEMBER. FEI SAID THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED HUA'S RISE FROM EIGHTH-RANKING MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO TO PREMIER. FEI SAID HUA HAD BEEN CHOSEN BY MAO AND CONFIRMED BY THE POLITBURO BECAUSE HIS YOUTH AND HEALTH MEANT THAT HE WOULD BE AROUND FOR A LONG WHILE, BECAUSE HE WAS "SUBMISSIVE TO MAO," AND BECAUSE HE WAS A "MODERATE". FEI CLAIMED THAT TENG HAD REFUSED THE PREMIERSHIP LAST YEAR, AGREEING WITH VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR CHINA TO HAVE A LEADER WHO WOULD LAST IN PLACE ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS (I.E. THE PROJECTED LIFE EXPECTANCY OF HUA). TENG, IN TURNING DOWN THE PREMIERSHIP, JOKED THAT HE COULD NEVER KNOW WHEN "MARX WOULD CALL HIM HOME".

5. WHEN ASKED IF HUA'S SUBMISSIVENESS TO MAO MEANT THAT HE WOULD PLAY THE ROLE OF INTERPRETER OF MAO'S THOUGHT, FEI RESPONDED ANXIOUSLY, "NO, NO". INSTEAD, FEI SAID THAT CHINA'S CHIEF THEORETICIAN OF MARXISM AND MAO'S THOUGHT IS ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE HEAD HU CHIAO-MU, AND ADDED THAT THE ACADEMY IS NOW RESPONSIBLE

FOR INTERPRETING THEORIES OF ECONOMICS, PHILOSOPHY AND
HISTORY.
SHOESMITH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK08234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780270-0023
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780613/aaaaakqu.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2444f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2182744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOSPEL ACCORDING TO FEI I-MIN
TAGS: PINT, CH, (TA KUNG PAO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2444f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014